

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 SCCT-02 L-03 H-03 SY-04

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USSS-00 SSO-00 PRS-01

INRE-00 DRC-01 /041 W

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O R 081446Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4001

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 9363

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC TH (TREVINO, LINDA)

SUBJ: PRESS REPORT OF KIDNAPPING IN THAILAND

REF : BANGKOK 9361

CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN BAN CHANG/RAYONG DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO LOCATE KIDNAPPED CHILD, INCLUDING ASSIGNING SPECIAL POLICE TO THE INVESTIGATION. UNFORTUNATELY, NO FIRM LEADS HAVE MATERIALIZED TO DATE, BUT POLICE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF INVESTIATION IS QUOTE SANGUINE ABOUT A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME IN THE NEAR FUTURE. LOCAL AUTHORITIES THEORIZE THAT KIDNAPPERS ARE MEMBERS OF ONE OF SEVERAL GROUPS IN THE BAN CHANG/RAYONG AREA WHO DEAL IN FINDING AND ACCEPTING UNWANTED AMER-THAI CHILDREN AND PASSING THEM ALONG THROUGH ADOPTION CHANNELS TO AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN FAMILIES. SUCH CHILDREN USUALLY COMMAND A PRICE OF BAHT 3,000 (US\$150). MR. TREVINO'S WIFE'S SISTER HAS CONTACTED ONE SUCH GROUP IN THE BAN CHANG/RAYONG AREA, AND IS ASSURED THAT THE CHILD IS NOT BEING HELD BY THAT GROUP. MR. TREVINO HAS PLACED ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS OFFERING A BAHT 10,000 (\$US500) RANSOM FOR THE RETURN OF HIS CHILD, BUT NO ONE HAS CONTACTED HIM TO DATE. THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AGAIN THEORIZE THAT THE KIDNAPPERS WILL CONTACT MR. TREVION FOR THE RANSOM AS (1) HE AND HIS WIFE ARE

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CONSIDERED IN THE AREA TO BE OF SOME WEALTH, AND (2) THE KIDNAPPERS

COULD OBVIOUSLY MAKE MORE FROM THE RANSOM THAN FROM SELLING THE CHILD IN THE LOCAL ADOPTION MARKET. AS THERE WERE SEVERAL EYEWITNESSES TO THE KIDNAPPING, POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THE CULPRITS, WHEN AND IF THEY ARE APPREHENDED, SHOULD PROVE NO PROBLEM. MR. TREVINO TOLD THE CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVE THAT HE IS SATISFIED WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH THE INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED THUS FAR. THE EMBASSY, OF COURSE, WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS THE CASE WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND PROVINCIAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS, BANGKOK KINTNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO09363
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740147-1004
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740662/aaaacbov.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BANGKOK 9361
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 OCT 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <28-Oct-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REPORT OF KIDNAPPING IN THAILAND
TAGS: CASC, TH, (TREVINO, LINDA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005